

STATE SENATOR • IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN • 3RD DISTRICT

Clark-Coleman Press Release

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CLARK-COLEMAN BILL PUSHES FULL-DAY, MANDATORY KINDERGARTEN *Submits Bill to Improve Early Education Opportunities*

LANSING – Continuing her fight for higher education standards and opportunity, Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) submitted Senate Bill 1306 that requires mandatory Kindergarten enrollment and full-day Kindergarten instruction.

Supported by parents and educators, alike, the bill signals a new era of public education in Michigan. Currently, parents and guardians are not required to enroll school-age children in Kindergarten; elementary schools offer only half-day Kindergarten courses.

“We owe it to our students and our parents to give them the necessary tools to learn,” Sen. Clark-Coleman said. “Practically speaking, parents would be helped financially because their children would be in a learning environment for an entire day – not just for three hours.”

According to the Education Commission of the States, a national education policy group, nine states require school districts to offer full-day Kindergarten. Two states, Louisiana and West Virginia, require school-age children to attend full-day Kindergarten.

Sen. Clark-Coleman has also sponsored legislation (Senate Bill 15) that would limit K-3 classroom size to 19 students. Both Senate bills have been referred to the Senate Committee on Education and are awaiting action.

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State Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman represents the 3rd Senate District. She sits on the Banking & Financial Institutions, Education, Families & Human Services, and Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs committees.